

**THE INFLUENCE OF J. O. C. EZEILO  
ON MATHEMATICS (1930-2013)**

Emeritus Professor J.O.C. Ezeilo (popularly called JOC) was born on January 17, 1930 at Nanka in Anambra State, Nigeria. He was married with four children. He had the following degrees: B.Sc. (First Class Hons.) in Mathematics (1953); B.Sc. Advanced (Passed with Distinction) (1954); M.Sc. (1955) all from the University of London; Ph.D. (1958) Cambridge University, England; D.Sc. (h.c.) (1989) University of Maiduguri; D. Tech. (h.c.) (1995) Federal University of Technology, Akure; D.Sc. (h.c.) (1996) University of Nigeria, Nsukka; D.Sc. (h.c.) (2008) Anambra State University, Uli.

Professor Emeritus Ezeilo started his academic career as a Lecturer in Mathematics at the University of Ibadan in 1958 and rose to the rank of a full Professor of Mathematics in 1964. In 1963, he was a Visiting Lecturer and Research Associate (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA); From 1966 - 1988, Professor of Mathematics, University of Nigeria, Nsukka; In 1979, a Benedict Distinguished Visiting Professor of Maths (Carlton College, Northfield, Minnesota, USA) and in 1980 a Visiting Professor of Mathematics (Howard University, Washington DC, USA). During the years 1967 - 1978 at the University of Nigeria, he was Head, Department of Mathematics; Acting Vice-Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor. In 1978 - 1979, he was also the Vice Chancellor, Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria and Chairman, Committee of Vice-Chancellors (of Nigerian Universities). From 1988 - 1994, he was the (Founding) Director, National Mathematical Centre, Abuja, Nigeria.

Professor Emeritus JOC published not less than 87 scientific papers in learned journals. Also, he had various academic prizes and awards. These include: University Major Scholar, University College, Ibadan, Nigeria (1949 - 1953); Ayrton Premium Award for a publication in the 1963 proceedings of the Institution of Electrical Engineers (U.K.) (1964); National Honour of the Commander of the Order of the Niger by the Federal Military Government (1979); A commemorative plaque of the Nigerian Mathematical Society for "outstanding pioneering contributions to the advancement of Mathematics in Nigeria"; the Gold Medal of the National Mathematical

Centre for pioneering contributions to the development of Mathematics and in 2010, the Distinguished Professor Award by the National Universities Commission, Abuja.

He served the public in the following areas: Member, Nigerian Council for Science and Technology (1970 - 1975); Chairman, Projects Development Agency of the East Central State of Nigeria (1970 - 1974); Chairman of the review panel for the mathematical curriculum for the Secondary Schools of the Federation (1978); Member, National Merit Award Committee (1979); Member, Board of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (1983 - 1989); Member, University of Abuja Planning Panel (1983); Chairman, Council of the Federal Polytechnic, Bauchi, Nigeria (1986 - 1990); Chairman, University of Abuja Planning Committee (1987); Representative of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) Trieste, Italy for the West African Region (1990 - 1997); Member of the Scientific Council of ICTP Trieste, Italy (1993 - 1997); Member of the Scientific Council of Institut de Recherch'e Mathematiques, Abidjan; Member of the Scientific Council of Institut de Mathematiques et de Sciences Physiques of Porto Novo, Benin Republic.

Professor Emeritus JOC Ezeilo belonged to the following societies: Member, Nigerian Mathematical Society (President 1984 - 1991); Member, Mathematical Association of Nigeria (President 1972 - 1974); Member, Mathematical Association of America; Member, London Mathematical Society; Member, Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics; Fellow, Nigerian Academy of Sciences; Fellow, Third World Academy of Sciences; Fellow, African Academy of Sciences; Fellow, Mathematical Association of Nigeria.

Professor F. I. Ochor  
The Head  
Department of Mathematics  
University of Nigeria,  
Nsukka, NIGERIA